

kansas state collegian

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thursday, april 21, 2011

vol. 116 | no. 139



Tomorrow:
High: 67 F
Low: 45 F



Saturday:
High: 61 F
Low: 45 F

03

Absent government
See why more than a third of our senators quit in the middle of their term.

04

Top ten
Like games? So do we. Take a look at our best of each genre video game selection.

05

Hypnotized
Check out today's Sports page to see what people do to root on their team.

GROWTH



Matt Binter | Collegian

The K-State rowing 1V8 boat races Oct. 23 at Tuttle Creek against KU.

Wiltfong provides leadership for rowing team

develops sense of family with team

Sean Frye
junior staff writer

Now in her third year of racing as a member of the K-State rowing team, Hanna Wiltfong has made every moment of her tenure count. Although she was a high school student who lettered in both volleyball and basketball and was looking at her college options, she had never planned on participating on an athletic team at the college level.

After the rowing team expressed interest, Wiltfong visited K-State on a recruiting trip and fell in love with the sport and the university. She has since developed a family among her fellow ath-

letes that will last a lifetime.

"I never planned on coming to college to do anything athletic," Wiltfong said. "When I got the mail about becoming a rower at K-State and fitting the height requirements and whatnot, I didn't know what to expect. When I finally got here though, I was really comfortable with the other girls. I felt at home, like for once I wasn't the only six-foot girl in the world."

On that visit, Wiltfong met Amanda Weishaar, junior on the rowing team. They formed a special bond and became roommates. Not only do they share nearly every experience together on the water, but off the water the two are even closer friends. Both are majoring in mass communications.

"We are both PR people, we have the same journey and we've gone through the same stuff," Wiltfong said. "It's like we're kindred spirits. We have invited rowers into our row family ever since."

Wiltfong has enjoyed a unique journey through rowing. She is a captain of the team and is gearing up for the end of the first year of what is expected to be a great three-year run for the Wildcats.

As a freshman, she was redshirted, which meant her first year consisted of hours of practice without a lick of competition. Wiltfong and her fellow family of rowers have now progressed to the varsity level and are now the crew leaders.

"She is thought highly of by the rest of the girls on

the team," said head coach Patrick Sweeney. "She is very vocal and very dedicated and works very hard. She is the type of person that you want on the program. She is driven to do well and we're really happy to have her here."

Wiltfong has provided a unique sense of leadership for the Wildcats. One of her most memorable moments came over spring break, when the team trained in Austin, Texas. It was a grueling time for most of the girls on the crew, but she found a way to make it a little more enjoyable for the group.

"A huge memory that I'll never forget as a captain is when the team got to go to laser tag over spring break in Austin," Wiltfong said. "Every day we passed this

laser tag place, and it was baiting us. I somehow talked to the coaches and they bought into it. Sweeney decided that we could play laser tag one night. It was one of the best workouts we got as a team for fun. People put on their war paint, and everybody was talking about it."

Team bonding and becoming a family are the themes Wiltfong tries to instill into the team.

She said one of the biggest experiences she will remember is the feeling of representing a winning team.

"Holding up the trophy and handing it over to my team after winning the Sunflower Showdown was a feeling I will never forget," Wiltfong said. "And I hope we get to do it again this weekend."

Brownback speaks about education in Alumni Center

Governor addresses student passions

Andy Rao
staff writer

On Wednesday night, Kansas Governor Sam Brownback spoke at the K-State Alumni Center to address students about a topic near and dear to the hearts of many Wildcats: education.

Governor Brownback spent much of his time speaking about the importance of students finding a passion to pursue with enthusiasm, and offered tips for students to find their life's calling.

One of his suggestions was that students find a mentor who can give advice and share personal and professional experiences. Brownback explained that this personal connection to someone who has gone through walks of life is invaluable.

"There were times where I would just ask one of my mentors, 'What are you thinking about tonight?'" said Brownback. "Often times, those conversations turned into very insightful lessons for me."

The Governor also discussed the importance of reading, and not just as a part of class or for class credit. Picking up a classic, especially a book that has been around for a couple hundred



Ethan Tegethoff | Collegian

Governor Sam Brownback talks with K-State student David Gibbons, junior in Business Marketing, after addressing students in the Alumni Building Banquet Room on Wednesday evening.

years. These novels, according to Brownback, were sources of timeless life lessons.

"There's a reason that these books have been around for a while," Brownback said. "Because people kept reading them. They have stood the test of time, and have been of great use through multiple generations."

Governor Brownback also urged students to get hands on experience in the industry that they are planning on entering

after graduation. Through outlets such as internships, industry related organizations, and even volunteer organizations, students' careers are jump started through an array of experiences, that Brownback said were essential.

"You have to work for what you love," he said. "Practice what you love now, and never stop trying to get better at it."

Before Brownback opened up the forum to audience questions, he spoke of his own experiences.

As a college freshman at K-State, he recounted setting his goal of becoming a United States Senator after watching then Kansas Senator Bob Dole in a congressional debate. When he told his roommate about his newfound ambition, his roommate laughed in his face and told him that was never going to happen.

"I remember, laughing at myself," Brownback said. "But if

I had let my roommate stop me from pursuing my goals, I would have never achieved what I have achieved today."

Brownback wrapped up his speech by reminding students that their education is an overall experience, not just a way to make a living.

After his presentation, one student asked about the budget cuts affecting university funding.

"Despite the 500 million dollar budget deficit that we are facing, we have actually increased our funding for higher learning programs for the first time in the last three years," said Brownback.

In January, Kansas state legislators backed a seven point five percent cut in funding for all state employee wages, and the plan also called for cuts in public education. The 293 public school districts in the state are looking at a collective funding cut that would amount to 232 dollars per student.

The Governor has exempted higher learning institutions from budget cuts, however, and has actually called for a 105 dollar million increase in research investments for public universities.

These investments will help support higher education, and in the words of Governor Brownback, will "fully engage the future of this country."

Creating a new planet

Tiffany Roney
staff writer

Typical environmental activists would celebrate Earth Day by holding signs and maybe recycling something. Far from typical, Students for Environmental Action, a student-led group at K-State, is celebrating Earth Day 2011 by assembling a flash mob, followed by an iPad giveaway.

"I've always been wanting to try to capture the moment; how do we take the energy that we created and the positive attitudes toward the environment and social justice on this campus on Earth Day?" said Zack Pistora, senior in political science and president of SEA. "I was thinking, and I said 'capture the moment' three times, and then it hit me - I'm like, 'I sound like a Kodak commercial!'"

Pistora's catchy camera language led to his idea to take an all-university picture to represent K-State and its commitment to preserving planet Earth. However, he said his own wordage was not his only piece of inspiration. He said he was also motivated by last year's "Hale Storm," when Timmy Specht, then-senior in electronic journalism, organized a flash mob dance party in Hale Library via Facebook.

"It was so much excitement around campus - people watched it on YouTube and stuff - and I was like, 'How do we make that happen, and make it mean something?'" Pistora said. "It was just dancing and having a good time, and I'm all for that too, but I was like, 'How can we take our actions and make it meaningful?'"

Kevin Tulp, senior in natural resources and environmental science and SEA member, said the flash mob is a fresh idea for how to celebrate Earth Day at K-State.

"We've had a similar format the last five years, just kind of a few

EARTH | pg. 3

A fresh look at the body

student asked to shed pounds starts new group

Hayley Henry
staff writer

"America's Next Top Model," "Project Runway" and "Make Me a Supermodel" are just a few of the modeling shows that have created the stereotypical "model" standards. Models are known for being gorgeous, tall and dangerously petite. Tiffany McFarlane, sophomore in apparel and textiles, was in the process of signing a contract with a modeling agency overseas when plans suddenly changed.

"I am 5 feet 6 inches tall and 105 pounds, and people love my walk, but they wanted me to drop 10 pounds," said McFarlane. "I knew dropping that much weight would be harmful to my body, so I didn't sign with them and decided to start my own modeling agency."

Although this was not the ideal way for McFarlane to begin plans for a modeling agency, she has not let this stop her from making her dreams come true.

"I want my modeling agency to help inspire models that are too short or not thin enough," McFarlane said. "I want to stray away from the 5 feet 10 inches and 110 pound models. I want to show people they are beautiful the way they are."

McFarlane is helping K-State in the fight against eating disorders and negative body images through her club "We Speak

LOOKS | pg. 3

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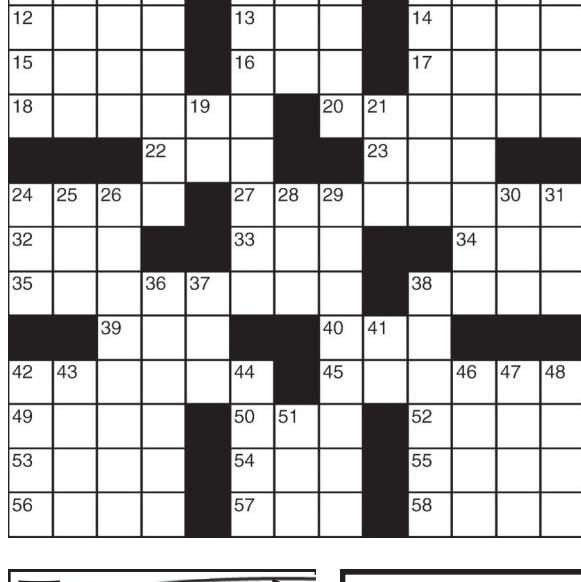
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16 Bando of baseball	49 For fear that	4 Mexican entree	30 Bribe
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18 Saw things in the dark?	52 Colorful fish	6 Detergent brand	36 Struck repeatedly
20 Sleeping sickness carrier	53 Appointment	7 Region	37 Altar
22 Mainlander's memento	54 Fond du —, Wis.	8 Toward the rear, nautically	38 Open out
23 Slip up	Solution time: 25 mins.	9 Woe	41 In that case
24 Green gem	Yesterday's answer 4-21	10 "Oh, woe!"	42 "M*A*S*H" star
27 Full exposure		43 Tide type	43 Tide type
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Logan's Run | By Erin Logan



4-21

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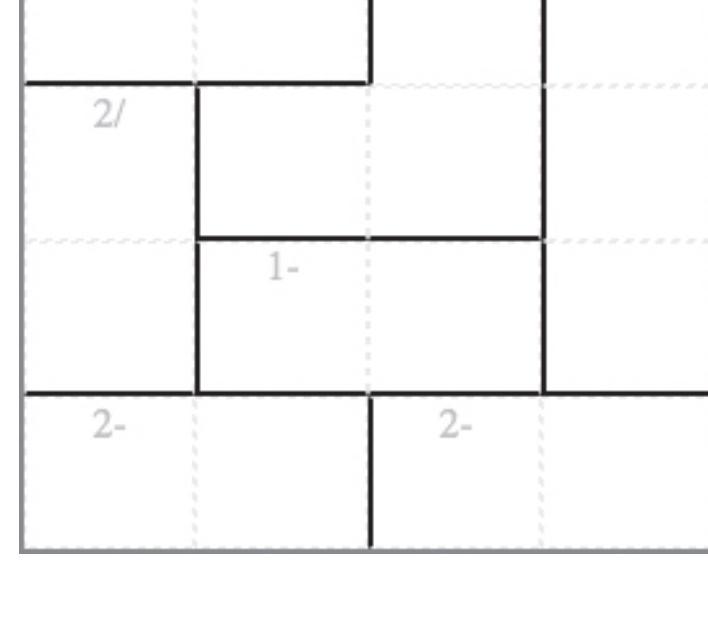
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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals P

KenKen |

Medium

Use numbers 1-4 in each row and column without repeating. The numbers in each outlined area must combine to produce the target number in each area using the mathematical operation indicated.



kansas state collegian

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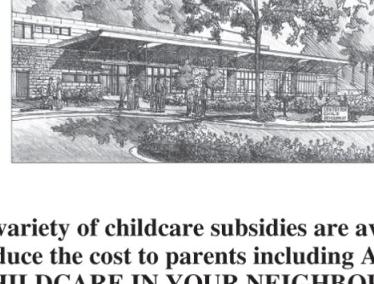
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Absenteeism problem in student senate

Senator training presents issue, correction needed

Sam Diederich
news editor

With checks and balances, parliamentary procedures, debate and discussion, government can be a tough gig for college students to grasp. Of course, the gig would be easier if student senators would show up for work.

In the 2010-2011 legislative year, 19 of the 60 student senators resigned before the end of their terms. The problem should not be taken lightly, said Natalie Rauth, senior in marketing and mass communications and next year's speaker of Student Senate.

"It is something that really frustrates me and it's something that I'm really interested in changing or at least attempting to improve," Rauth said. "I think one of the main reasons people left was a lack of training and lack of knowing what we do and how we go about doing it."

Experienced senators are less likely to leave student government, Rauth said, because they have an understanding of the organization. New senators, on the other hand, may be overwhelmed by the duties of Senate, especially if they begin in the middle of the semester.

"Another reason people leave is if they are new to the body, then they are just thrown into the middle of it all," Rauth said. "They don't get any additional training and they can't really catch up on what's going on. They don't know how to debate,

what committees do, how to pick a committee."

"A lot of people that run for Student Senate don't even know that when they are elected, they are required to serve on a student committee, and that can be another hour to five hours a week of time," Rauth said.

Kyle Nuss, sophomore in architectural engineering, is currently finishing his first term as a student senator, and though he recognizes resignations have been common, he said he is unconvinced the issue is a problem.

"A big reason is the president's cabinet and the judicial branch usually get filled with people who are elected senators and can't be in both branches, so they have to resign from Senate," Nuss said.

"That's part of it, and another part is we have a pretty strict attendance policy. If you miss meetings, you get replaced."

He said senator resignations do not get in the way of Senate business.

"It's never been a huge deal or problem," Nuss said. "Last year, a couple times we had a little bit of trouble getting our quorum, but those were products of bad weather."

Rauth has a different take on the replacement of senators.

"Replacing people can be a problem, as I have found out already. I've only been speaker for five days, and I've had to replace eight people," she said. "It can take weeks to replace a senator because those appointments are made by a college's student council, and they might not meet more than once a month."

The problem does not end after replacement senators are named. Senate needs more than a warm body in a seat.

"It's scary that untrained students can sit in a room and allocate millions of dollars," Rauth said.

To remedy the problem, the newly elected speaker is introducing a training program for new and returning senate members. Senators will attend a retreat tonight rather than a traditional meeting, and as new and replacement senators filter in, Rauth will assign veteran senators as guides.

"My goal is for new senators to have a mentor, and also to have a personal meeting with them so that they are aware of parliamentary procedures, how to debate, expectations, guidelines," she said. "There will be some name tag wearing and ice breakers. There has never been a personal feeling in Senate, so I'm hoping we can fix that."

Rauth hopes the training will acquaint the senators not only with policy and procedure, but also with fellow senate members. Ideally, familiarity with procedure and people will encourage senators to introduce legislation and get involved with meetings, she said.

"I've watched over the last three years as interest in legislation and passion for what we are doing has dwindled," Rauth said. "I hope to fix that this year because I'm really nerdy, and I really care about student government. I want to see others pick up that interest. In the long run, I think training will allow us to do a better job representing the student body, which is our job."

EARTH | Student Flashmob

Continued from page 1

information booths and things people can come to, but the flash mob is something that's really, really new and progressive," Tulp said.

Pat Bosco, vice president of student life, said he supports the flash mob for two reasons. First, he said the fact that the flash mob is student-initiated and student-run is "very K-State-like – that makes a great deal of impact on what's important to our university family." Second, Bosco said he is a supporter of the environmental message.

When asked if he participated in pro-environment activities during his college years, Bosco said, "I'm a student of the sixties at K-State; of course."

Pistora said the organization is aiming for 1,000 flash mob participants at 1 p.m. on Friday at Memorial Stadium at the corner of Bluemont Avenue and Denison Avenue. SEA members will have just 15 minutes to organize participants so they resemble a map of planet Earth.

"A lot of people look at me like, 'Zack, you're crazy, man; there's no way you can do that,' so I was like, 'Well, why don't we just make it a challenge?' Pistora said.

Pistora said the flash mob's advertising has been quick and hopefully powerful, with most of the publicity beginning just this week. Despite the last-minute promotions, both Pistora and Tulp said they are optimistic about garnering 1,000 participants.

"Last year, we had 408 people participate in Earth Day, and it was raining, and it was indoors, so I think we can do it, honestly – I think we'll be close to it," Tulp said. "It's not just bringing people in for Earth Day, but it's bringing K-

State together for something new."

Pistora said the group will use the 15 minutes of assemblage as a metaphor for the next 15 years of environmental and social challenges. Organizers have a game plan to funnel people into sections which will lead to the various continents and oceans. K-State Parking Services has allowed the organization to borrow cones and caution tape to map it out beforehand.

Participants are advised to wear either purple or green. Pistora said he expects the majority of students to wear purple out of K-State pride, and then the organizers will use the background of the green field to the image's advantage. Once the students have been organized, photographers positioned at the top of Memorial Stadium will take pictures.

"We all want to be a part of something, we want to make something happen, and we'll take home a little piece of history for us – that's why we're going to try to get people hooked up with a postcard," Pistora said. Pistora said the price of the postcard will be "pretty cheap."

While the organization is motivated to make a powerful statement, Pistora said he wanted to emphasize that the flash mob aims to deliver its message not as a protest, but as a "promo-test," or a positive reinforcement.

"We have certain things to be angry about; we could be upset about the oil spill down in the Gulf and the bombs that get dropped on people and habitats, but why don't we tell people that we want a better way?" Pistora said. "We want to do things in a positive, non-violent manner, not only for ourselves, but also for the animals and everything that makes the ecosystem a place where humans can be."



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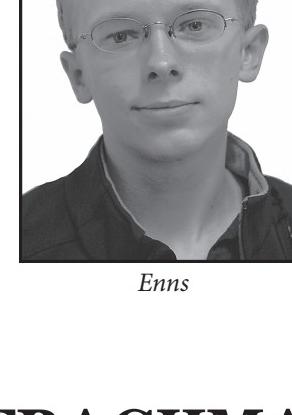
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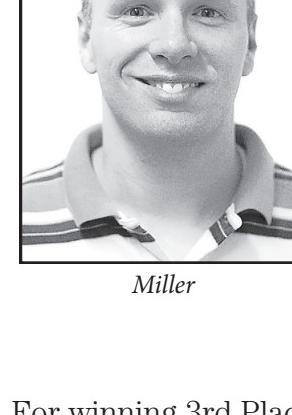
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DESIGN FOR ALL

Students collaborate on gaming project

Sandi Lam
staff writer

Video games are fun to play, but what does it take to design one? This is exactly what the students in CIS 690, a game implementation class, work to figure out all semester. Through collaborative efforts, the class will have designed and developed a working video game by the end of the semester.

On April 16, the CIS 690 students set up an informational station during K-State's Open House in Fiedler Hall. The students also had their designed video game on several computers and invited passers-by to try out the demo version.

Groups of teams creating the video game included the writers, the programmers and the artists. The writers were given the task of writing the plot for the game and developing the characters and their backstories.

Jordan Kimbrell, graduate student in English and writer for the project, recalled that, starting from a blank slate, the class came up with the idea for their game, "Artifacts of Atlantis."

"We talked about all the different

Maverick, Jenny, Cameryn and Travis Aggson watch as Connor Aggson plays a video game in Fiedler Library. The video game was created by Computer Science students, and was one of many projects on display during Engineering Open House 2011.

Carlos Salazar
Collegian



time periods that we were interested in and came up with a time traveling game that takes place in ancient Egypt, China and medieval England," Kimbrell said.

David Kilby, senior in psychology and writer for the project, helped elaborate on the game's plot.

"The people of Atlantis are all enslaved, and our three characters are taken to present day where they are debriefed about their goal," Kilby said. "Then they are sent back in time to one of the three places and gather artifacts of Atlantis. They

combine the artifacts to create a weapon to destroy Atlantis."

Each of the three teams worked on their respective tasks and combined their efforts for the project.

Before students who are unfamiliar with computers dismiss this course, it's important to note that as of this year, students of a variety of majors can take the class and experience the art behind video game design, said Nathan Bean, instructor and coordinator for computing and information science. He said invitations have been sent to different

departments to gain exposure with students.

"It is interdisciplinary for the first time, and through partnerships we are expanding," Bean said. "We are planning to reach out to the drama and music department."

Matt McHaney, senior in computing and information sciences and team programmer, noted the benefits of having the class open to students of all specialties.

"It makes (the project) more colorful," McHaney said. "Because there are so many people, the ideas

are more wide. Programmers get right down to code and what can happen, the mechanics. So it becomes a balancing act when we work as a group."

Bean said the only requirement for enrollment is junior status.

"We welcome people from any background," he said.

Besides giving experience in the realm of technical computing, the students said they had fun in the class.

"There's a lot of historical humor in the game," Kilby said.

Electronic scrabble-like game brings fun anywhere, anytime

Wordfeud

★★★★★

Video game review by Jennifer Heeke

Wordfeud is a new application for the iPod Touch, iPad, iPhone and Android. It allows you to play an electronic Scrabble-like game with anyone, anytime.

The best thing about this app is the fact you can play at your own pace, whenever and wherever you want. All you have to do is download the app and create a login. The app allows you to log in with your Facebook or Twitter, or you can create a separate user name to connect with friends. You can even play random opponents.

This app is basically just a way to pass time, but I enjoy coming up with words and making them fit. Most of the time I don't aim for the most points, I go for the best word I can fit, which often still gets the most points.

One of the game's downfalls is it doesn't take proper nouns, like cities and names. The app uses English, Norwegian, Dutch, Danish and Swedish dictionaries. Once you pick a language, you can't use words from the other available languages.

The hardest part of the game is finding space after the first 10 or so moves. There are times when you get great letters and think of a word, but you can't find a clear space or enough space on the board to play. I usually end up guessing words, which has helped me improve my vocabulary because I've discovered a few new words. I know many of the people I play against also guess words just to use up



Jennifer Heeke | Collegian

letters without having to skip a turn.

The most addictive aspect of Wordfeud is the competitiveness. Finding a word that fits and getting the most points, or putting words on the board that are funnier or better than what the other person can come up with is what drives this game.

Depending on the words placed and extra point spaces used, final scores can range from being a few points apart to one person's score being twice as high as the other's. The game board is filled with double and triple letter and word spaces

which can boost a score significantly.

Just like real Scrabble, the game takes thought and skill. Unlike the real version, you can guess more and find new words without having to go look the words up in a dictionary every time.

Wordfeud is a great way to waste time, but only if the other person responds quickly. If you don't play it on a phone, you are limited to Wi-Fi spots.

Jennifer Heeke is a senior in journalism and mass communications. Send comments to edge@spub.ksu.edu.

Press Start: 10 Games, Varied Tastes



Parker Willhelm

Like any other medium, there isn't one type of video game that appeals to everyone. Today's list is dedicated to 10 specific genres that define people's taste in video games and the titles that best represent them. Selections were based on three criteria: 1) The game must be prototypical of the genre it represents, 2) It must be still be enjoyable by today's standards and 3) It must cater to both newcomers as well as longtime fans.

1. Casual: "Peggle"

Casual games tend to get flak from people who think they're only for little kids. Such people have never played "Peggle." The moment you first hear Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" after completing a level, you're hooked. "Peggle's" gameplay is simple, yet challenging, and will suck your free time dry. (Also try: "Plants vs. Zombies," "Angry Birds")

2. Racing: "Burnout Revenge"

"Burnout Revenge" reigns supreme when it comes to capturing the exhilaration of extreme speed. Racing down oncoming traffic while trying to avoid collisions and still come in first place is nothing short of nerve-wracking. Make a mistake, and your car becomes a crushed soda can with wheels. It's the perfect white-knuckle racer. (Also try: "Need for Speed" series, "Mario Kart" series)

3. Role-Playing: "Fallout 3"

Set several hundred years after the earth is reduced to a

seared wasteland by nuclear war, "Fallout 3" lets several decisions fall upon the player. This post-apocalyptic future is bleak, and nearly everything you do falls in the moral gray, allowing you to craft a character that can end up a hero, a villain or anywhere in between. (Also try: "Final Fantasy XIII")

4. Fighting: "Marvel vs. Capcom 3: Fate of Two Worlds"

"Marvel vs. Capcom 3" brings together some of the greatest heroes and villains in comic book and video game history for one massive brawl. That should sell the game by itself. The real marvel here is the gameplay that manages to keep both newcomers and hardcore fighting game fans happy, which I thought was impossible. (Also try: "Super Street Fighter IV")

5. Survival Horror: "Silent Hill 2"

For the uninitiated, "survival horror" is the video game equivalent of a slasher flick. "Silent Hill 2" is the master at this, combining terrifying sound design with an equally morbid art style to get the player scared over what ends up being their own imagination. (Also try: "Condemned: Criminal Origins," "Dead Space")

6. Puzzle: "Tetris"

Brett Elston of GamesRadar wrote in an article, "The Top 7 Best Launch games of all time," that "Tetris" is "the worldwide phenomenon that put Game Boy in more homes than any video game device up to that point." "Tetris" now exists on every nearly device that has a screen. (Also try: "Bejeweled," "Portal")

7. Sports: "NBA Jam"

The problem with the sports genre is that it can be boring to people who don't enjoy watching regular sports. However, the arcade classic "NBA Jam"

forges any realism and instead brings ridiculous two-on-two basketball madness that broke into pop culture as much as it broke physics. (Also try: "Madden" series)

8. Strategy: "StarCraft II: Wings of Liberty"

The amount of practice it takes to master the strategies used in "StarCraft II" can sometimes border on the insane. What's it for newcomers, you ask? Well, the game makes the tactic-based gameplay digestible for newbies, and the online modes do a fantastic job pitting players of a similar skill level together, meaning more time letting out your inner general than a white flag. (Also try: "Age of Empires II")

9. Music: "Rock Band 3"

"Rock Band 2" was the paragon of party games. The exhaustive playlist, ranging from Bon Jovi to Tenacious D, allowed you and your friends to rock out on guitar, bass, drums and vocals long after the party was over. Enter "Rock Band 3," with more songs, more modes and a fully functional keyboard, and suddenly one of the best rhythm games just got better. (Also try: "Guitar Hero 5," "DJ Hero")

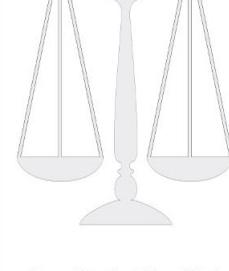
10. Shooter: "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare"

It feels like a cop out to add one of the biggest names in the industry to the list, but "Modern Warfare" is the reason sequels like "Call of Duty: Black Ops" continue to dominate college campuses nationwide. Take an evenly paced campaign coupled with addicting multiplayer that managed to beat "Halo" out of its throne, and you have a winner. (Also try: "Halo 3," "BioShock")

Parker Willhelm is a freshman in open option. Send comments to edge@spub.ksu.edu.

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kansas state collegian

WINDING UP

K-State set to host Texas Tech for three games

Tyler Scott
senior staff writer

Texas Tech will make its way to Manhattan this week, taking on K-State for a three game series beginning today at 6:30 p.m. at Tointon Family Stadium. The series will continue tomorrow at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday's first pitch will be at 1 p.m.

The Red Raiders are in ninth place in the Big 12 Conference with a record of 24-15, 6-9. The Wildcats are in 11th place with a 5-10 record in the conference and 21-15 overall. However, K-State is 14-5 at home this season.

Texas Tech is currently at the bottom of the Big 12 in pitching, with a league worst 5.15 ERA. Thirteen of its pitchers have an ERA of over four, while John Neely holds an 8-0 record and ERA of 2.70. Neely also leads the Red Raiders in strikeouts with 41.

Brennan Stewart has a 2-0 record in 12 appearances for Texas Tech and ERA of 1.78.

Reid Redman has played in every one of Texas Tech's games and currently has a .325 batting average, while Jamodrick McGruder has a .324 batting average after only missing one game. They are ranked 14th and 15th in the conference for individual leaders.

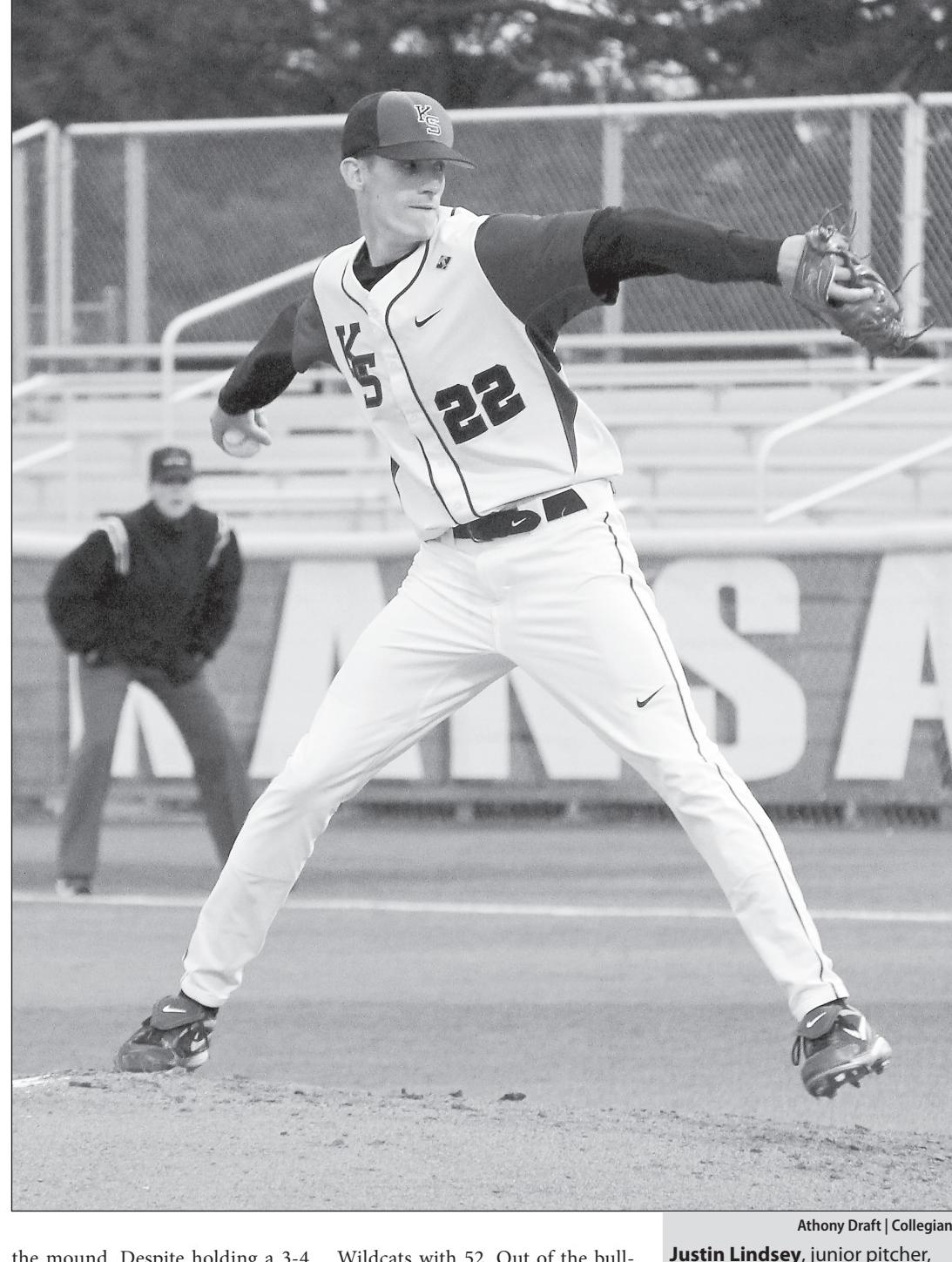
The Wildcats don't have much in the power department when it comes to home runs, but junior outfielder Nick Martini is batting .325 and also leads the team with 12 stolen bases. Freshman infielder Ross Kivett is also batting very well with an average of .364 through 23 games.

"As a leadoff hitter it's easier when you have guys like Martini and the King brothers behind you," Kivett said. "This team has a lot of good chemistry, and we all pick each other up."

Assistant coach John Szefc said the team had struggled with points this season, especially with the hitting, but now it's starting to come around.

"We've had some ups and downs this season along with not getting the base hit that puts us over the hump," Szefc said. "You're always trying to come in and create the big inning."

Junior pitcher Evan Marshall leads the team in appearances on



Anthony Draft | Collegian

Justin Lindsey, junior pitcher, delivers the baseball during the game Tuesday night against Missouri State.

the mound. Despite holding a 3-4 record, he only has an ERA of 1.70. When it comes to strikeouts, junior pitcher Kyle Hunter leads the

Wildcats with 52. Out of the bullpen, junior pitcher James Allen is one of the nation's top closers with 10 saves.

Fans can learn from examples



Joshua Madden

I watched the film "The Manchurian Candidate" — the Denzel Washington/Liev Schreiber one, not the original — and I couldn't help but think that sometimes sports fans resemble the hypnotized characters in the film. Otherwise normal people seem to do insane things simply because they are hardcore fans of a sports team.

Case in point: the recent tragic events surrounding Bryan Stow. According to an April 14 Associated Press article by Janie McCauley, Stow was a San Francisco Giants fan who went to the Giants-Los Angeles Dodgers game at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles on opening day and was beaten severely outside. He remains in a medically induced coma, and no one has been arrested.

We will probably never know the exact details of what happened. We will certainly never know what the exact thoughts were running through the perpetrators' heads. I think it's reasonable, however, to say that this was a senseless act of violence, and it was at least partially motivated by intense feelings of some kind.

The saddest thing is, this is something that seems to happen to many otherwise normal people during sporting events. There are plenty of people who go to enjoy the games and get a little too into it for one reason or another. How many of us have a memory of someone — maybe not ourselves necessarily, but at least a friend — getting disproportionately angry at a game? Given the intensity of K-State sports, I think it's likely there are not going to be too many of you out there who can claim to be totally immunized from this "Manchurian Candidate"-like syndrome.

McCauley also reports that Tim Lincecum, a pitcher for the Giants, is donating \$25,000 to a fund that's been designed to assist Stow and his family with medical and other various expenses.

I have to give Lincecum credit for really making a stand on this. Clearly, his stance is a somewhat obvious one — people shouldn't beat each other at sporting events — but evidently it's one some people need to hear.

There are probably hundreds of sports columnists out there who are writing pieces about this incident, and I have a feeling that most of them will make many of the same points that I'm making here. I will go a little further with my point here: regardless of the sport, regardless of the team, regardless of the individual players — it's still just a game.

I understand the feelings people have about some of these things. I'll root for K-State in pretty much any competition they participate in. I was rather irritated after the Pinstripe Bowl. As a St. Louis Rams fan, I think I was far more irritated after their final loss to the Seattle Seahawks.

I still don't much care for Charlie Whitehurst. Even though you made the playoffs, Seahawks, you were still the worst team to ever do so. Remember that.

But it's worth remembering that, at the end of the day, none of this really means anything. Sure, it's fun to watch a game and get excited about it, but the performance of a sports team isn't an insightful comment on the human condition. It isn't a scientific discovery — no matter how good an athlete is at making a play, that play is never going to cure cancer.

We need to stop once in a while to recognize this isn't something that requires we act the way we often do. Maybe we can be a little more civil on Facebook after a huge game — I don't think that's a horrifically unreasonable request.

Unlike the characters in "The Manchurian Candidate," we still have a reasonable amount of control over our actions. We should make the most of it.

Joshua Madden is a senior in political science and history. Please send comments to sports@spub.ksu.edu.

K-State Volleyball up against Chinese opponents

Paul Harris
senior staff writer

The K-State volleyball team will exchange a different greeting with their next opponent. The team will offer a simple "Ni Hao" to the Tianjin Bridgestone Women Volleyball Team tonight at 5 p.m. in Bramlage Coliseum.

Tianjin Bridgestone is the top-rated volleyball team in China and has won its league championship seven of the last 10 years. The team is currently in the midst of an American tour and will play the University of Nebraska following their match with K-State.

Junior opposite hitter Kathleen Ludwig said she is excited about playing a top-flight team.

"We are extremely honored to have this caliber of a team come over and play on our campus," Ludwig said. "They won't be as tall and physical, but they are going to do the little things really well. They are a really really good ball-handling team."

Head coach Suzie Fritz was also very quick to point out the differences between American and Asian volleyball.

"They will play very fast and control the ball at a very high rate," Fritz said. "They're going to rely

on their speed and ball handling skills. It's a synchronized dance if you will."

Ludwig said she is just excited to get out there and play volleyball and continue to improve as a team. The action will play to five sets regardless of the score.

As a whole, the event is more than two volleyball programs competing head to head. Tianjin Bridgestone and the K-State volleyball team will tour Aggieland, visit the Beach Museum of Art and sign autographs together at the International Student Center.

Fritz said she loves opportunities like this because it allows her student athletes to see a different culture.

"We like to do that as much as we can," she said. "It opens our eyes outside of our little bubble. Just gets us to see that no matter how far you go people are people. It will be a great cultural experience."

Fritz said she hopes the event will not only open the eyes of her team, but also those of the international community at K-State.

"We have been able to involve a lot of the Chinese student community," she said. "Our hope is to get them involved and excited about our team. We hope to get the international student community more interested in volleyball."

Tianjin Bridgestone will stay with 10 host families in the Manhattan community. Translators have been provided to the host families and the Chinese volleyball team to help them adjust to Manhattan.

Matthew Binter | Collegian
Junior Kathleen Ludwig spikes the volleyball during the match against Texas Tech Nov. 3 in Ahearn Fieldhouse.



K-State Rowing prepares for upcoming Sunflower Showdown

Sean Frye
junior staff writer

The K-State rowing team will continue their spring season on Saturday as they face off against the Jayhawks in the Kansas Cup at Lake Wyanotte in Kansas City, Kan. This is the second time the Wildcats are going head-to-head against the University of Kansas this season; K-State beat them on Oct. 23, 2010, at Tuttle Creek Reservoir in the Sunflower Showdown.

"I feel confident in this

weekend with where we're at," said K-State head coach Patrick Sweeney. "We have moved on, and we are in a good place even with the weather not being great this week. I feel confident that they will perform this weekend."

Bad weather, which hindered the Wildcats' training, has been the theme for K-State during the long winter. After making big strides in their past two competitions in California and Tennessee, Sweeney said he doesn't want the bad weather to impede his team's progress going into the Kansas Cup.

"This is not good weather to prepare in," Sweeney said. "The good thing about this weekend is Kansas is in-state, so they are getting the same weather. The past few days, we haven't been out to row properly. We can get away with it for a short period of time, but if it continues to next week, it will hurt a bit."

Despite the challenges of rowing in a cold weather state, which forces the Wildcats off the water during the winter, the crew has made big strides in their last two competitions. Since their first spring competition on March 18 in Texas, all

four boats have shaved an average of 57.75 seconds off their times.

"Teams that are on the water all the time are at their peak, and they're not getting any faster," Sweeney said. "We're slowly closing in on them, and we're all closing that gap. With Alabama, Tulsa and Central Florida, all four of us are going to be fighting to get into that final round of the Conference USA."

The tournament will be a change of scenery for the Wildcats. Their past two competitions were champion-

ship style racing, which is six lanes racing at one time. This weekend, K-State and KU will be facing each other head-to-head in what is essentially both teams' backyard.

"It's six of one and half a dozen of the other," Sweeney said. "It's different obviously when you get to sleep in your own bed and hopefully get a good night's sleep. The traveling is actually kind of a lift."

One thing Sweeney wants to see improvement on is the technique of the four boats. Last weekend at the Southern Intercollegiate Rowing As-

sociation competition in Oak Ridge, Tenn., the Wildcats were hindered by technical mistakes.

"We still are working to get better technically," Sweeney said. "Last weekend, we struggled there, so we want to change that and get better."

Ultimately, the women are after one goal this weekend; to beat their rivals.

"It would be disappointing if we go behind KU," Sweeney said. "If they perform, they'll get the result that they want. The girls love to beat KU, so I think they'll get up for this one."

Meditation relieves stress, very relaxing



courtesy photo

Mood improvement and longer attention spans

Chelsy Lueth
photographer

Inhale and exhale. Inhale and exhale. At the beginning it is all you can do to focus on just breathing. A situation or problem may enter your mind but you disregard it, close your eyes, sit up straight and focus your mind. Inhale and exhale.

Meditation and the act of clearing one's mind to being in the present is a practice that reaches back through time and cultures.

The Sri Lankan Students' Association and Student Government Association are presenting a lecture by Ven. Yatinuwara Sankichcha titled "Meditation for Day-to-Day Life: Avoiding and Overcoming Depression Without Medication" at 5 p.m. Friday in Forum Hall.

Meditation plays a large role in most Sri Lankans' lives, and many believe the role meditation can play in others' lives needs to be known and shared. Nishantha Samarakoon, lecture organizer and SLSA member, compared the act of meditation to polishing a table.

"If we don't polish something, like a table, the shine will go down," Samarakoon said. "And we have to polish it every day. The brain is also the same. If you do not do anything it will be corroded, or there would be some dust on it."

Keeping the brain spotless and keeping yourself in the present can help those dealing with stress, hyperactivity and other negative life situations.

Being a student can cause a lot of stress, especially as finals and exams are approaching. That stress is one reason Dilum De

Silva, graduate student in mathematics, meditates.

"The benefits of meditation are immense," he said. "I am practicing it and I can see it in my life. It is very, very good. Because I am a grad student, as you can imagine, it's hard. You need to have attention for a long period of time."

De Silva said meditation helps him concentrate for a longer period of time and relieves his stress. He said this has helped him live a happier life.

De Silva said there are many different ways to meditate and many things to meditate on. While meditation is usually considered a Buddhist practice, all faiths are encouraged to participate. He explained that participants could focus on the characteristics of a certain figure like Buddha or Jesus Christ.

"You can think about the qualities of the deity in your religion that you look up to," De Silva said. "It helps you relax your mind in doing that. If you can't concentrate on inhaling and exhaling, there are other options. You just have to find that out and do what's right for you."

The upcoming lecture event is important to Sri Lankan students because, Nadesha Lihinikadu Arachchige, graduate student in statistics, said, Buddhists don't have the chance to go to temples because they are far away on the East or West coasts.

"It's good to have things like this every once in a while because we tend to go there no matter what we have happening," she said. "Because it's a Buddhist event and it is organized by the Sri Lankan people in Manhattan, so we tend to go there and try to do meditation once in a while. It's always good to relax you; to get rid of the unwanted things in your mind."

LOOKS | Fashion puts emphasis on weight

Continued from page 1

Art," which will be starting in the next couple of weeks.

"We Speak Art will be a multicultural organization for people who are interested in performing fine arts and visual arts," she said. "I want the organization to be a way to create connections with others. I want the club to be for people who have passion for the arts and giving back to others."

McFarlane was not only inspired to create this club by her own personal encounters, but also by an event in her childhood.

"I am from St. Louis, and when I was growing up a girl hung herself in her closet because she was getting bullied on MySpace," McFarlane said. "People were telling her she was ugly and fat. This made me really think what people say have an impact on other people's lives."

Eventually McFarlane wants to help other causes through her new club.

"I want to help people that have experienced domestic violence and abuse, mental prob-

lems and attempted suicide," she said.

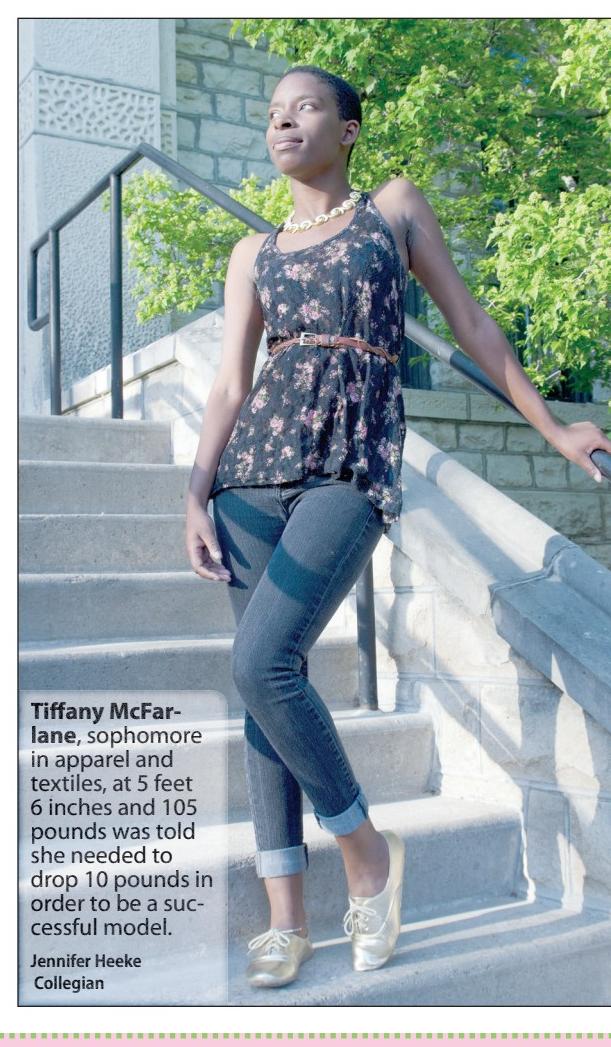
Recently McFarlane hosted a fashion show and has been promoting positive body image through T-shirts she created for the show.

"The girls' shirts say, 'I am beautiful,' and the boys shirts say, 'I am original,'" McFarlane said. "The whole project is about showing people they are beautiful the way they are."

She said she wants to help others and be a positive role model for upcoming generations.

"People don't speak positively in our youth and I want to give back positively," McFarlane said. "Everyone is gifted and talented in their own way. I want to help show everyone's gifts and help people who are suffering with eating disorders. I want to help others and give something positive back."

McFarlane is helping raise awareness about body image on campus. In addition to her fight for this cause, the Women's Center is always available for anybody interested in more information or help with body issues.



Tiffany McFarlane, sophomore in apparel and textiles, at 5 feet 6 inches and 105 pounds was told she needed to drop 10 pounds in order to be a successful model.
Jennifer Heeke
Collegian

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Answer to the last

Sudoku.

Rules: Fill in the grid so that each row, column, and 3x3 block contains 1-9 exactly once.

4 6 2 3 1 9 5 8 7

3 9 7 8 6 5 4 2 1

5 8 1 2 7 4 6 3 9

6 2 4 7 8 1 9 5 3

8 1 5 9 2 3 7 6 4

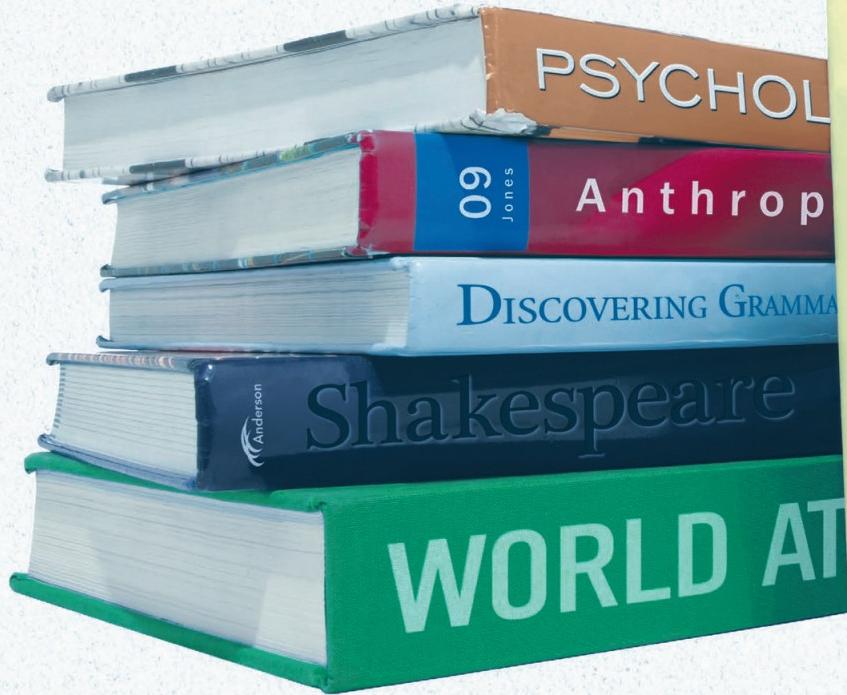
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